IN THE CLAIMS

1.   (currently amended) A method for facilitating ~~the~~ ~~auctioning~~auctioning of a pricing ~~model using a network-based system including a~~ ~~server and at least one device connected to the server via a network, said~~model, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving product listing and pricing information data from multiple ~~suppliers,~~suppliers;

developing, by a server, an initial regression equation for each supplier based on ~~received~~the product listing and price information ~~data, and~~data;

combining, by the server, the initial regression equations for each of the suppliers into a final regression equation for a ~~product line.~~product line; and

receiving purchase contract bids from the suppliers, wherein the bids are based on the final regression equation.

2.   (currently amended) A method according to Claim 1 further comprising the step of posting the final regression equation to the suppliers along with required products.

3-4.   (canceled)

5.   (currently amended) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of receiving product listing and pricing information data from multiple suppliers further comprises the step of providing the suppliers a matrix showing desired products to be used in developing mathematical models.

6.   (currently amended) A method according to Claim 5 wherein said step of providing the suppliers a matrix further comprises the step of providing a spreadsheet of desired products in which at least one of the suppliers can enter pricing information.

7.   (previously presented) A method according to Claim 2 wherein said step of posting the final regression equation to the suppliers comprises the step of transmitting to the suppliers a bid sheet.

8.   (currently amended) A system for facilitating ~~the auctioning~~auctioning of purchase contracts for engineered products by implementing pricing models, said system comprising:

at least one device;

a server ~~configured to~~configured to:

receive product listing and pricing information data from multiple ~~suppliers,~~suppliers;

develop an initial regression equation for each supplier by utilizing ~~received~~the product listing and price information ~~data, and~~data;

combine the initial regression equations into a final regression equation for a product line; and

receive purchase contract bids from the suppliers, wherein the bids are based on the final regression equation; and

a network connecting said at least one device to said server.

9.   (currently amended) A system according to Claim 8 wherein said server further configured to post the final regression equation along with required products to enable bids from the suppliers.

10-11. (canceled)

12.   (currently amended) A system according to Claim 8 wherein said server further configured to provide the suppliers a matrix showing desired products to be used in developing mathematical models.

13. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 12 wherein said server further configured to provide a spreadsheet of desired product, the spreadsheet configured to receive pricing information entered by the ~~supplier.~~suppliers.

14. (original) A system according to Claim 9 wherein said server further configured transmit a bid sheet to the at least one device.

15. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 14 wherein said server further configured to accept coefficients into <u>one of</u> the initial regression ~~equation~~equations from ~~a supplier.~~one of the suppliers.

16. (original) A system according to Claim 8 wherein said network is one of a wide area network, a local area network, an intranet and the Internet.

17. (currently amended) A computer programmed to:

prompt a user to enter product listing and pricing information data from multiple suppliers;

develop an initial regression equation for each supplier based on the product listing and pricing information data;

combine the initial regression equations for each of the suppliers into a final regression equation for a product line;

transmit to the suppliers the final regression equation and a list of required products; and

receive purchase contract bids from ~~suppliers.~~the suppliers, wherein to receive <u>purchase contract bids from the suppliers said computer configured to receive the bids that are based on the final regression equation.</u>

18. (canceled)

19. (currently amended) A computer programmed in accordance with Claim 17 and further programmed to transmit to <u>the</u> suppliers a matrix showing desired products to be used in developing mathematical models.

20.   (original) A computer programmed in accordance with Claim 19 and further programmed to transmit to the suppliers a spreadsheet of desired products into which at least one of the suppliers can enter pricing information.

21.   (previously presented) A computer programmed in accordance with Claim 17 and further programmed to transmit to the suppliers a bid sheet.

22.   (currently amended) Apparatus comprising:

means for receiving product listing and pricing information data from multiple suppliers;

means for developing an initial regression equation for each supplier based on the received product listing and ~~price~~pricing information;

means for combining the initial regression equations for each of the suppliers into a combined regression equation for a product line; and

means for receiving purchase contract bids from ~~suppliers.~~the suppliers, wherein the bids are based on the combined regression equation.

23.   (currently amended) Apparatus in accordance with Claim 22 further comprising means for transmitting to the suppliers the combined regression equation and ~~the products~~products to enable bids from the suppliers.

24.   (currently amended) Apparatus accordance with Claim 22 further comprising:

means for providing the suppliers a matrix illustrating desired products to be used in developing mathematical models; and

means for providing a spreadsheet of desired products into which ~~a supplier~~one of the suppliers can enter pricing information.

25.   (currently amended) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of combining the initial regression equations further comprises the step of generating ~~a final~~the final regression equation according to

$$COST = 847 + 26.7HVBIL - 262LVBIL + 16.3kVA + 9.02(LVBIL) \times (HVBIL)$$
$$- 0.0635(LVBIL) \times (HVBIL)^2 + 0.143(TEMP^2 \times kVA^2)/1,000,000$$
$$- 0.0481(TEMP \times kVA) - 0.000025(TEMP \times kVA^2)$$

for an electrical transformer pricing model.

26.   (currently amended) A system according to Claim 8 wherein said server further configured to generate a final the final regression equation according to

$$COST = 847 + 26.7HVBIL - 262LVBIL + 16.3kVA + 9.02(LVBIL) \times (HVBIL)$$
$$- 0.0635(LVBIL) \times (HVBIL)^2 + 0.143(TEMP^2 \times kVA^2)/1,000,000$$
$$- 0.0481(TEMP \times kVA) - 0.000025(TEMP \times kVA^2)$$

for an electrical transformer pricing model.

27.   (currently amended) A computer programmed in accordance with Claim 17 and further programmed to generate a final the final regression equation according to

$$COST = 847 + 26.7HVBIL - 262LVBIL + 16.3kVA + 9.02(LVBIL) \times (HVBIL)$$
$$- 0.0635(LVBIL) \times (HVBIL)^2 + 0.143(TEMP^2 \times kVA^2)/1,000,000$$
$$- 0.0481(TEMP \times kVA) - 0.000025(TEMP \times kVA^2)$$

for an electrical transformer pricing model.